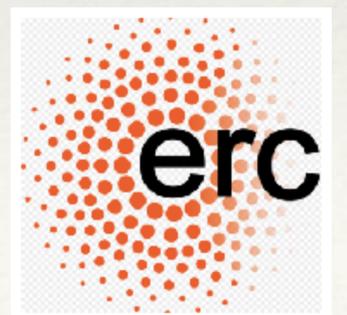


TDAMM

“Transient” from (Super)Massive Black Hole Mergers

Elena Maria Rossi
Leiden Observatory



SMBH binary merger: a multi messenger event

1. SMBH binaries ultimately merge by **emitting gravitational** waves ($< 10^{-2}$ pc)
2. In order to merger, a complex interplay of interactions between SMBHs and the gas and stars in their host galaxies is required, which provide ample opportunities for **multi-wavelength EM counterparts** to this process
3. In gas rich mergers, EM signals are produced by the presence of accretion discs and jets both before and after merger. Jets may be source of **accelerated particles** (cosmic rays and neutrinos)

SMBH binary merger: a multi messenger event

1. SMBH binaries ultimately merge by **emitting gravitational** waves ($< 10^{-2}$ pc)

Gravitational Waves (GW) emitter

GW Power:

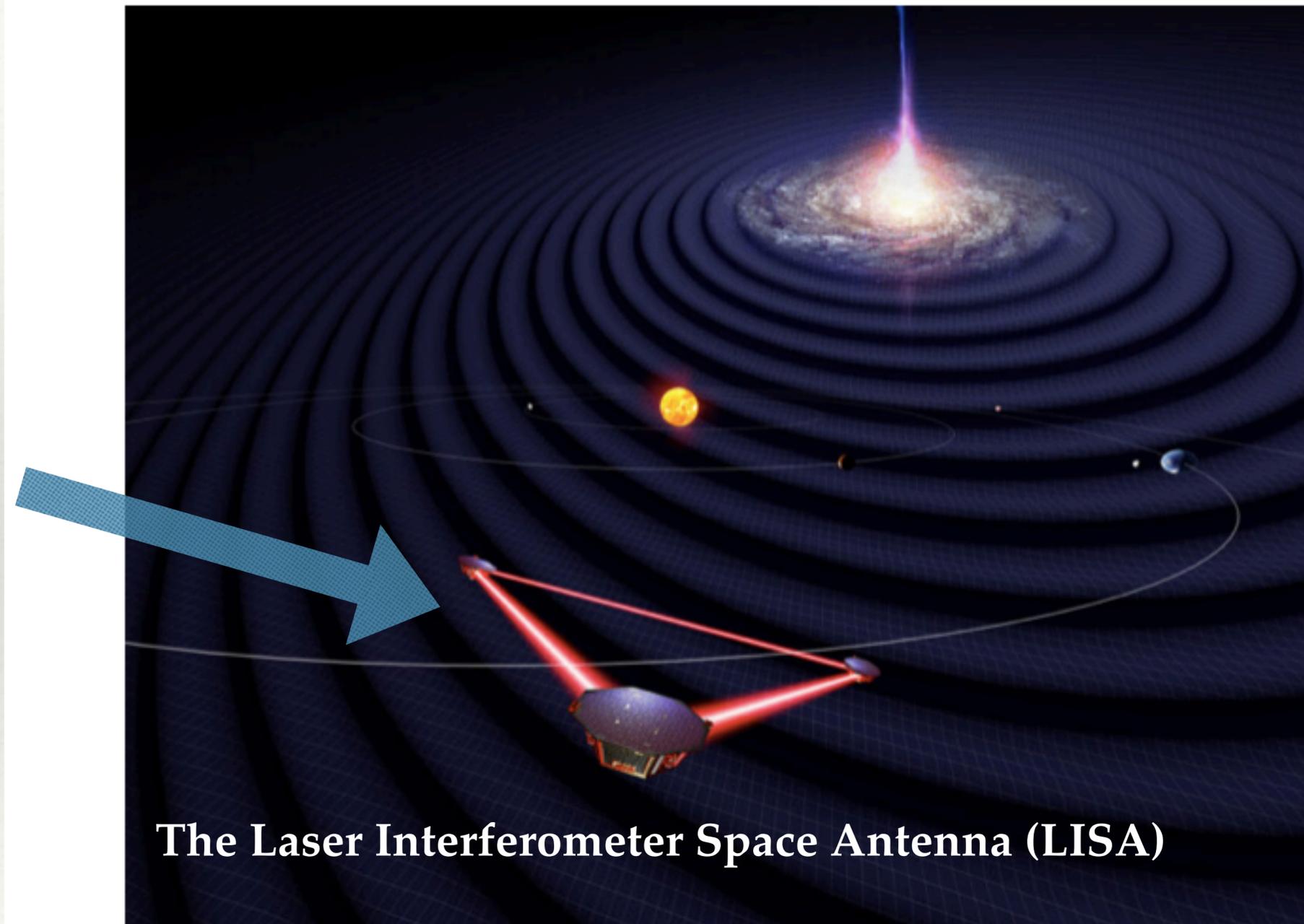
$$P_{GW} \sim \left(\frac{c^5}{G} \right) \left(\frac{GM}{c^5 a} \right)^5 \leq 3.6 \times 10^{59} \frac{\text{erg}}{\text{s}}$$

GW frequency at ISCO:

$$f_{GW} = \frac{1}{6\sqrt{6}\pi} \frac{c^3}{GM(1+z)} \approx \frac{4}{1+z} \text{mHz} \left(\frac{10^6 M_{\odot}}{M} \right)$$

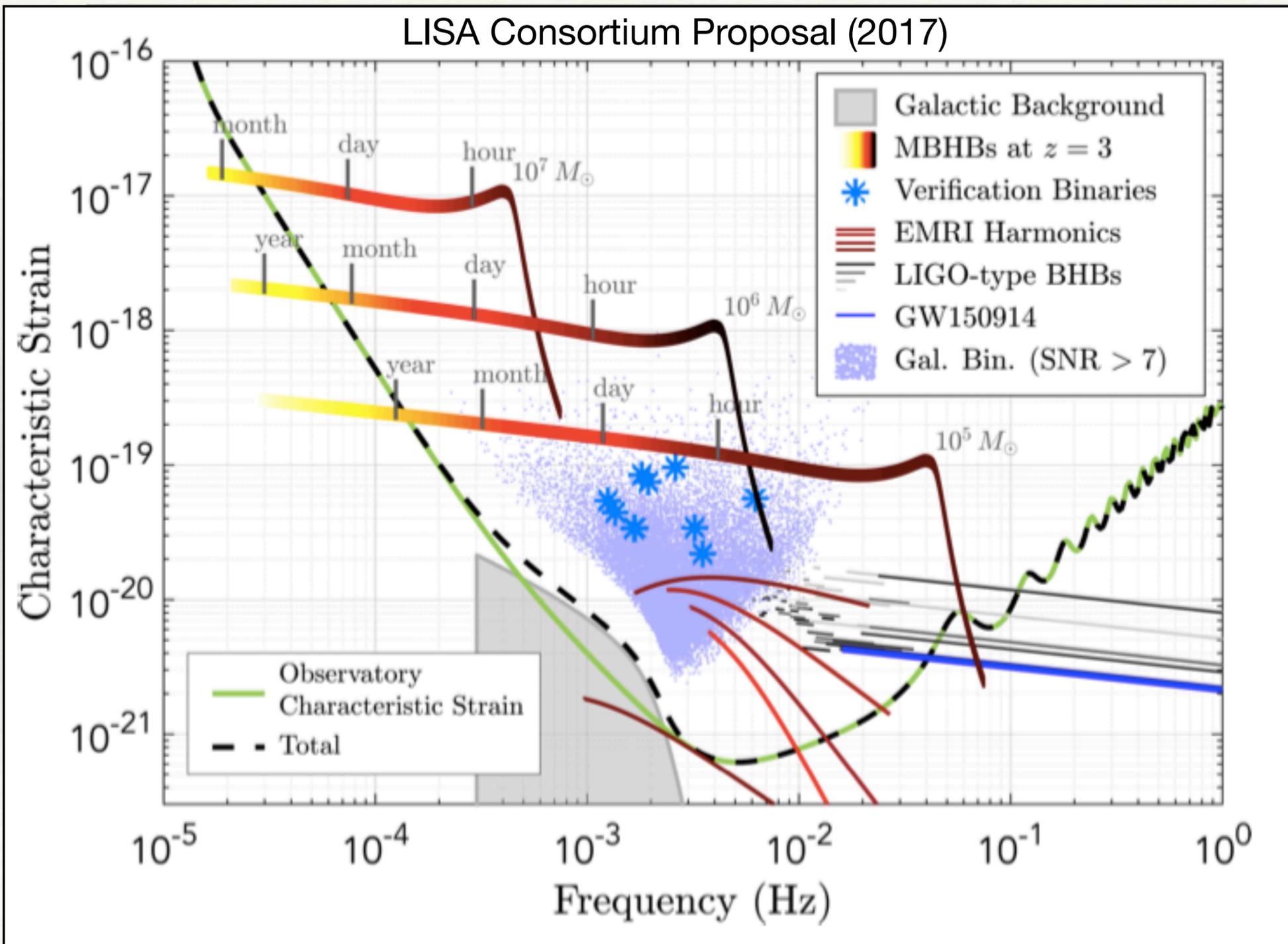
Merger Timescale in the LISA band:

$$t_p \approx 0.32 \frac{(1+q)^2}{qf(e)} \left(\frac{a}{\text{AU}} \right)^4 \left(\frac{M}{10^6 M_{\odot}} \right)^{-3} \text{yr.}$$



The Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA)

SMBH binaries in the LISA Band



- Merging binaries in LISA
- Week to months in band
- High mass / high redshift \rightarrow low f

$$f_{\text{GW}} \approx \frac{4}{1+z} \text{ mHz} \left(\frac{10^6 M_\odot}{M} \right)$$

SMBH binary merger: a multi messenger event

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The articulated process of merging

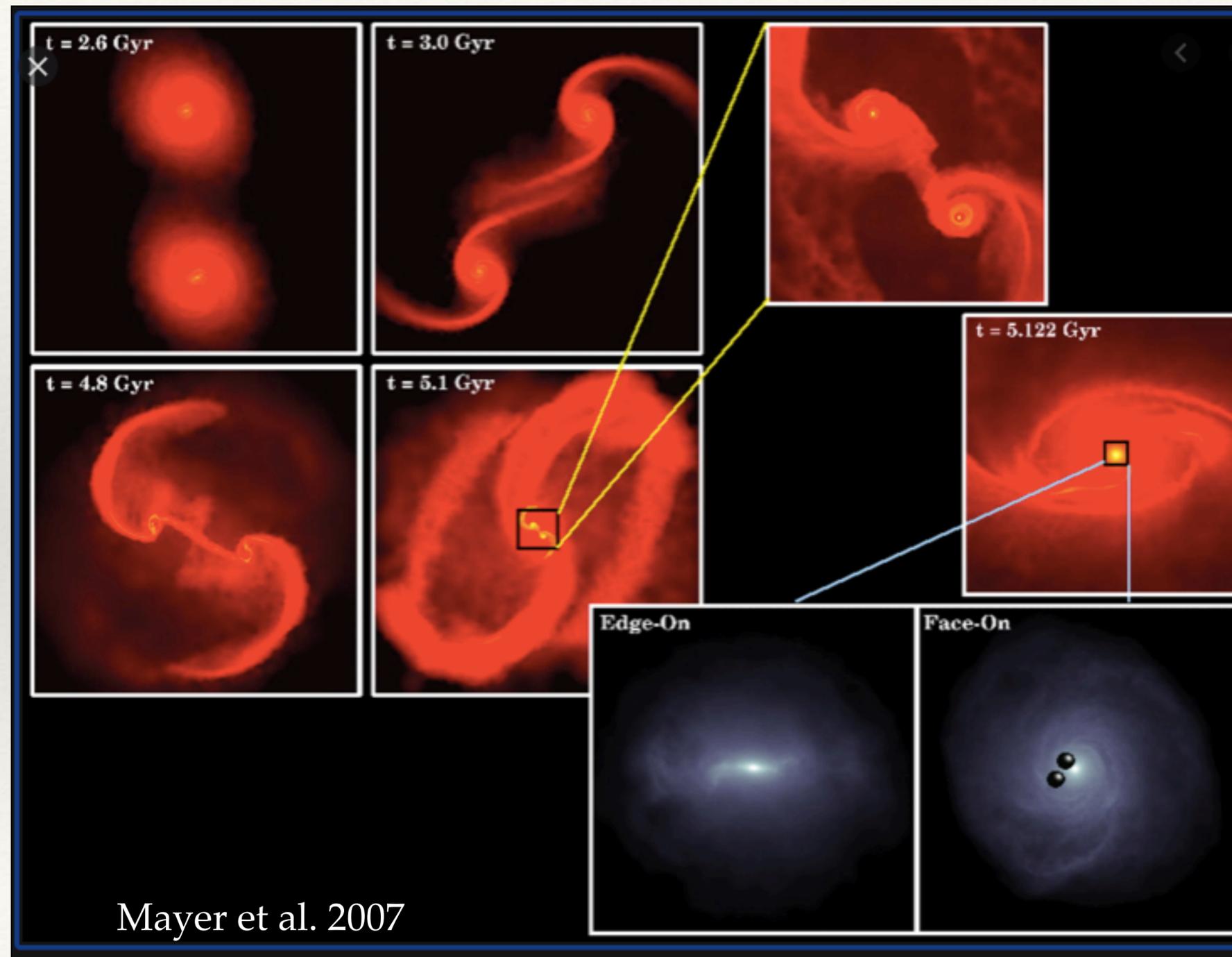
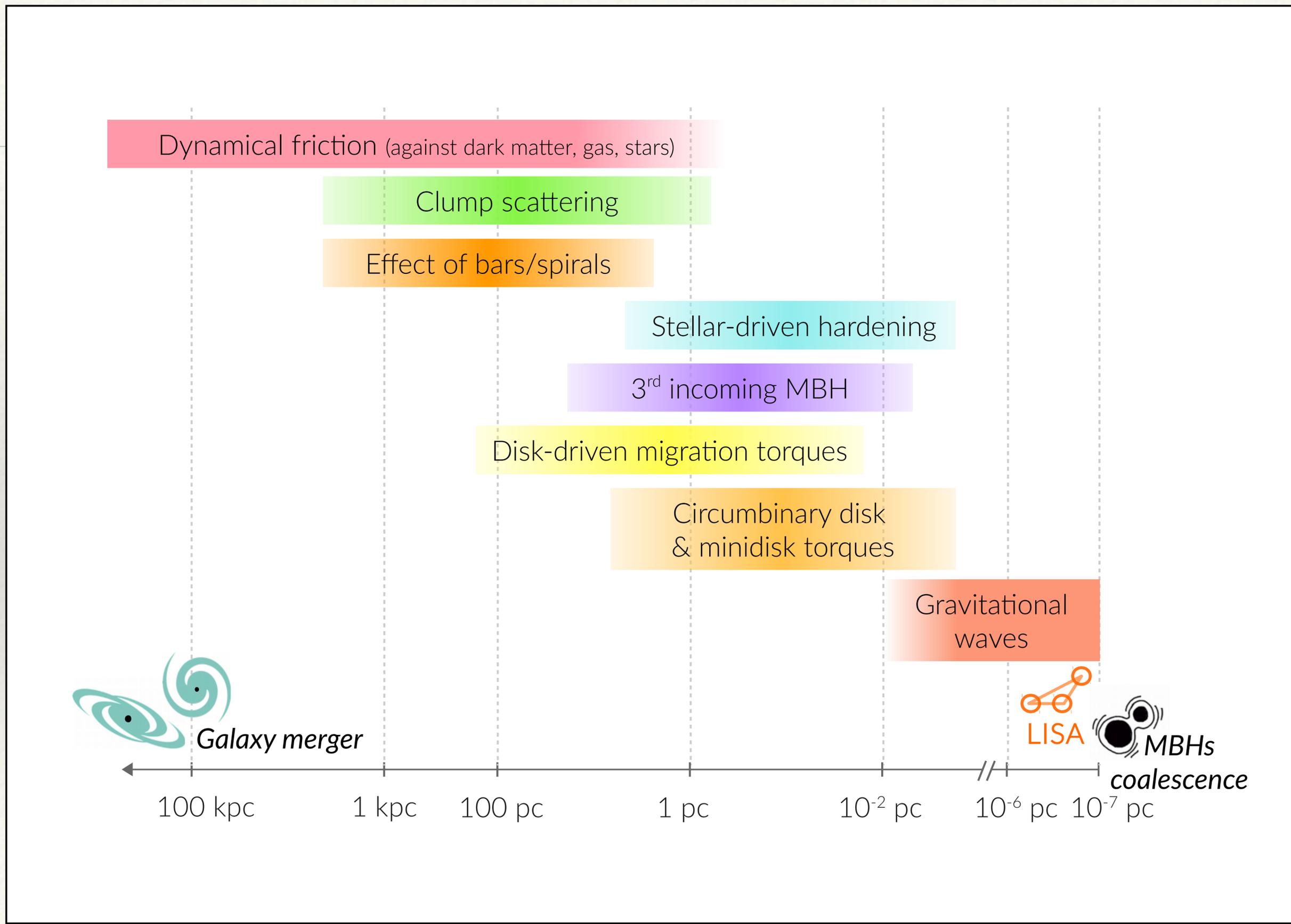


Figure: LISA Astrophysics Working Group White Paper (LRR); made by Elisa Bortolas



SMBH binary merger: a multi messenger event

3. In gas rich mergers, EM signals are produced by the presence of **accretion discs and jets** both *before* and *after* merger. Jets may be source of **accelerated particles** (cosmic rays and neutrinos)

Electromagnetic counterparts to GWs: Type 1

Large scale EM emission *related* to the process of merger
in conceptual and statistical relation with GW events

- ❖ Merging galaxies
- ❖ Dual AGNs
- ❖ *Binary* AGNs (not yet detected)*
- ❖ Pre and Post merger emission searched in wide-field surveys
- ❖ Wandering black holes

Covered by Tingting Liu yesterday

* Very Large Array (ngVLA) may resolve MBHB pairs down to sub-10 pc separations and track binary orbits through changing pc-scale jet morphology (Burke-Spolaor et al., 2018).

Electromagnetic counterparts to GWs: Type 2

EM observations of a given merger event, where LISA is a trigger

- ❖ Detections by EM observatories (e.g. SKA, ngVLA, Roman, Rubin, Athena, LynX, AXIS) of “transients” driven by LISA localisation capability
- ❖ Detections of host galaxies of LISA events

Up to a few tens in 4 years (e.g. Mangiagli+2022)

What do we learn from combining multimessenger info?

- ❖ **Astrophysics:**

- ❖ The process of galaxy / SMBH merger, fundamental ingredient in the cosmological hierarchical process of structure formation

- ❖ Physics of accretion discs and jets in (violently) changing spacetime

- ❖ **Physics:** test of GR comparing speed of light and gravity

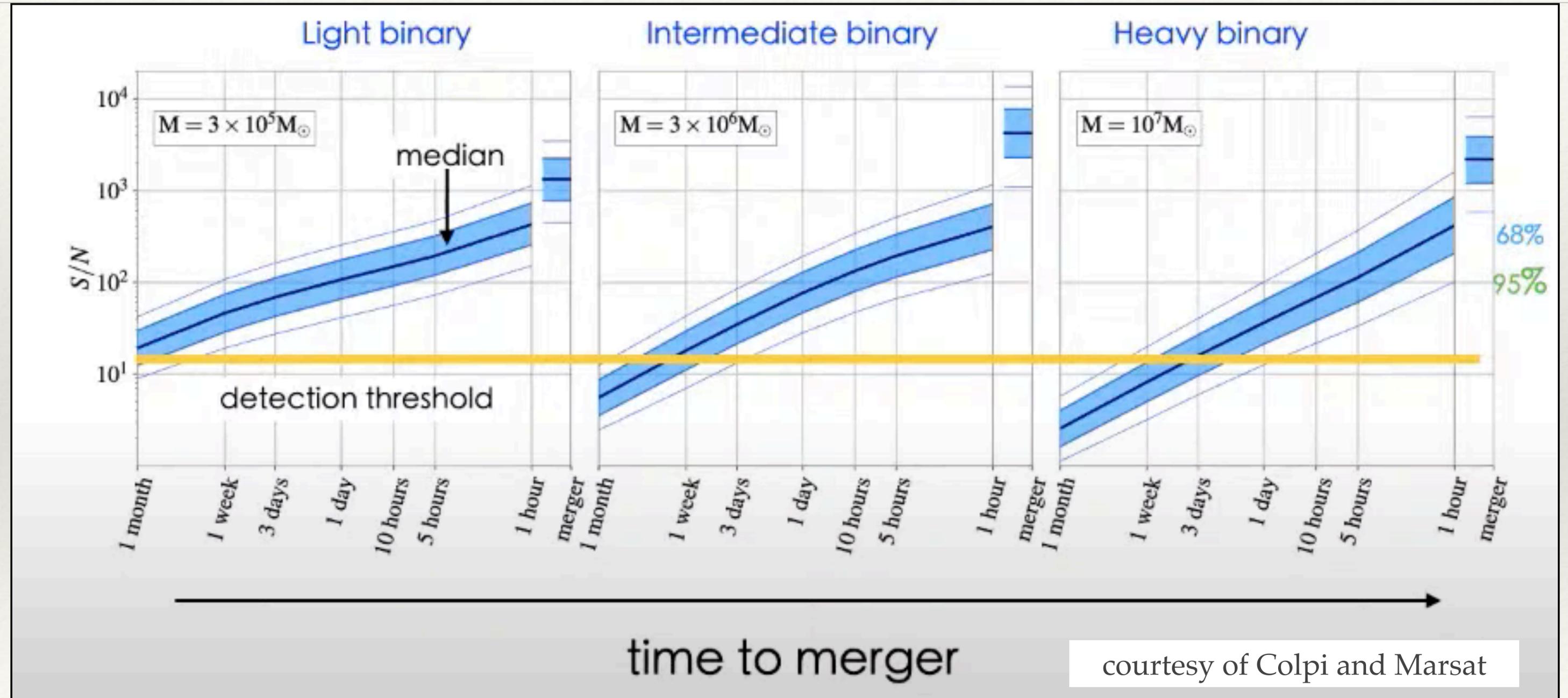
- ❖ **Cosmology:** testing cosmological parameter with standard sirens out to $z \sim 5$

LISA's detection and localisation capability

On-the-fly detection

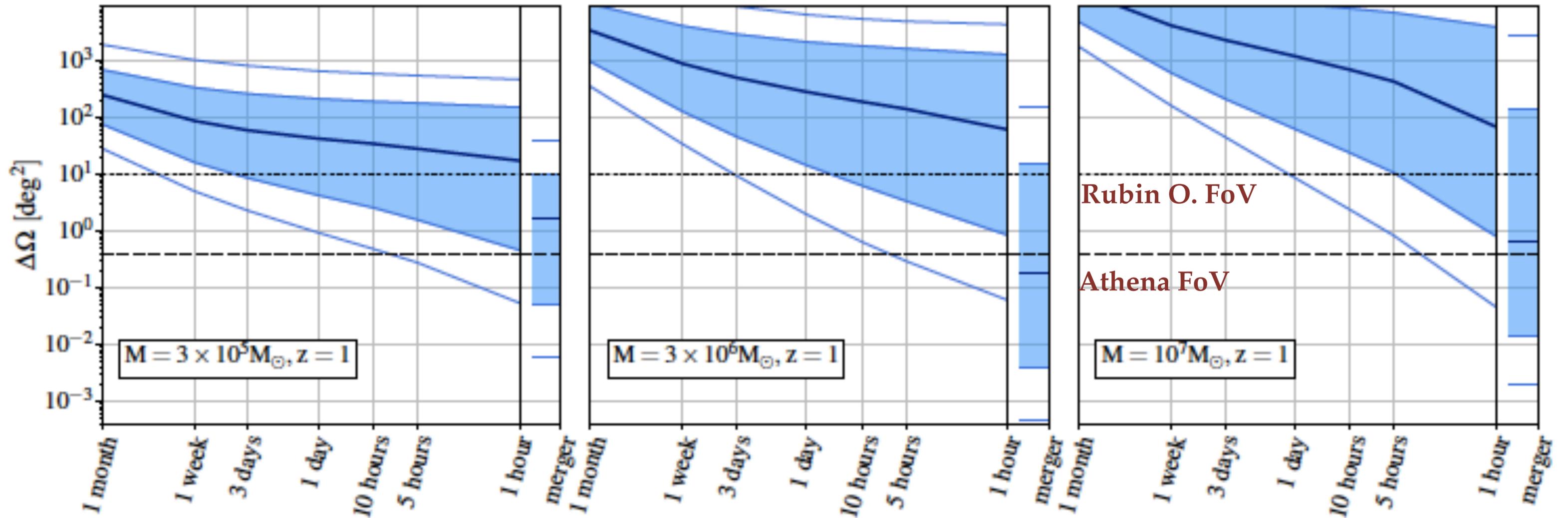
Piro et al. (incl. EMR) in prep.

all events at $z=1$



On-the-fly localisation

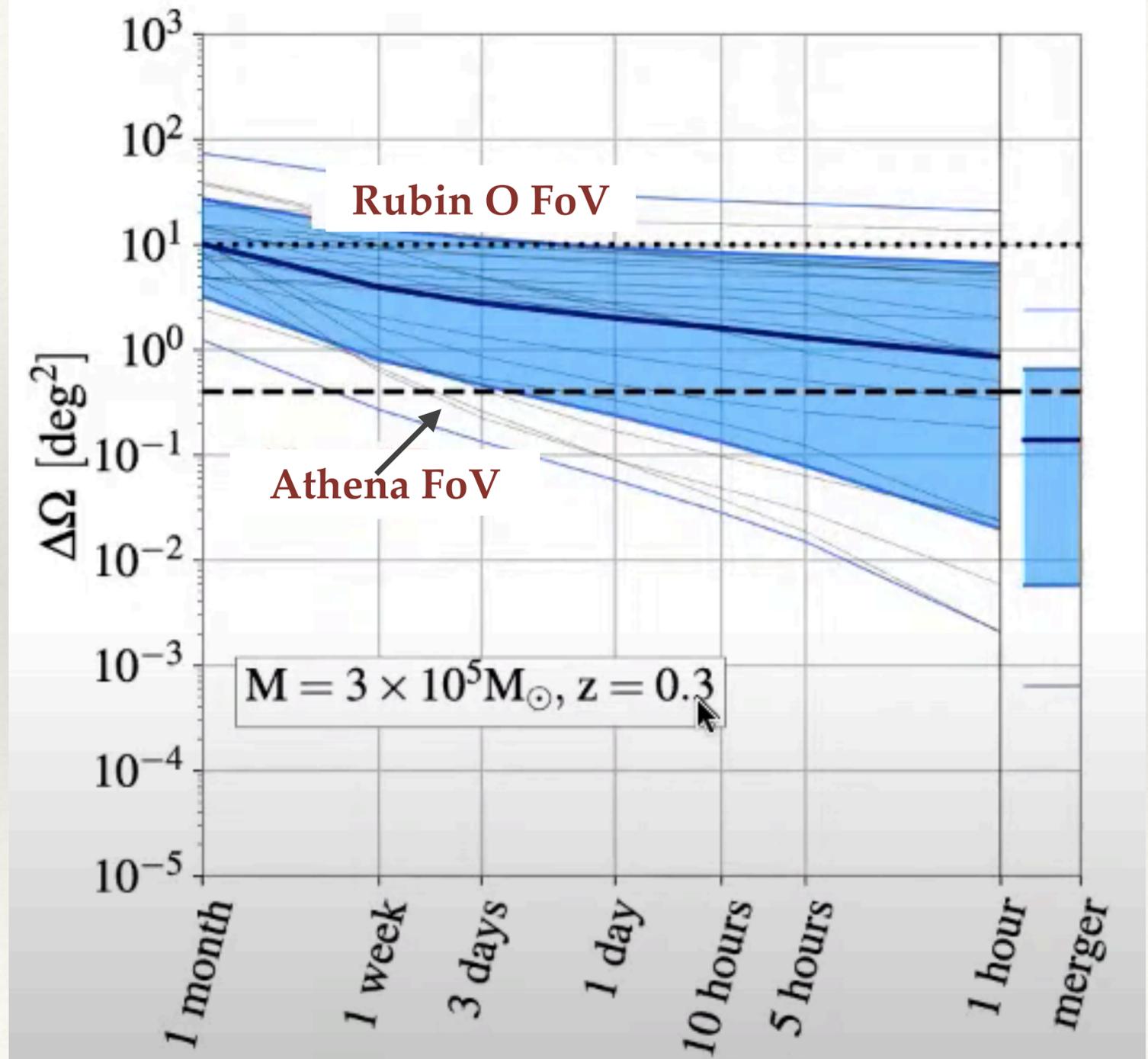
Piro et al. (incl. EMR) in prep.



Localisation at after merger is far more likely than in the pre-merger phase

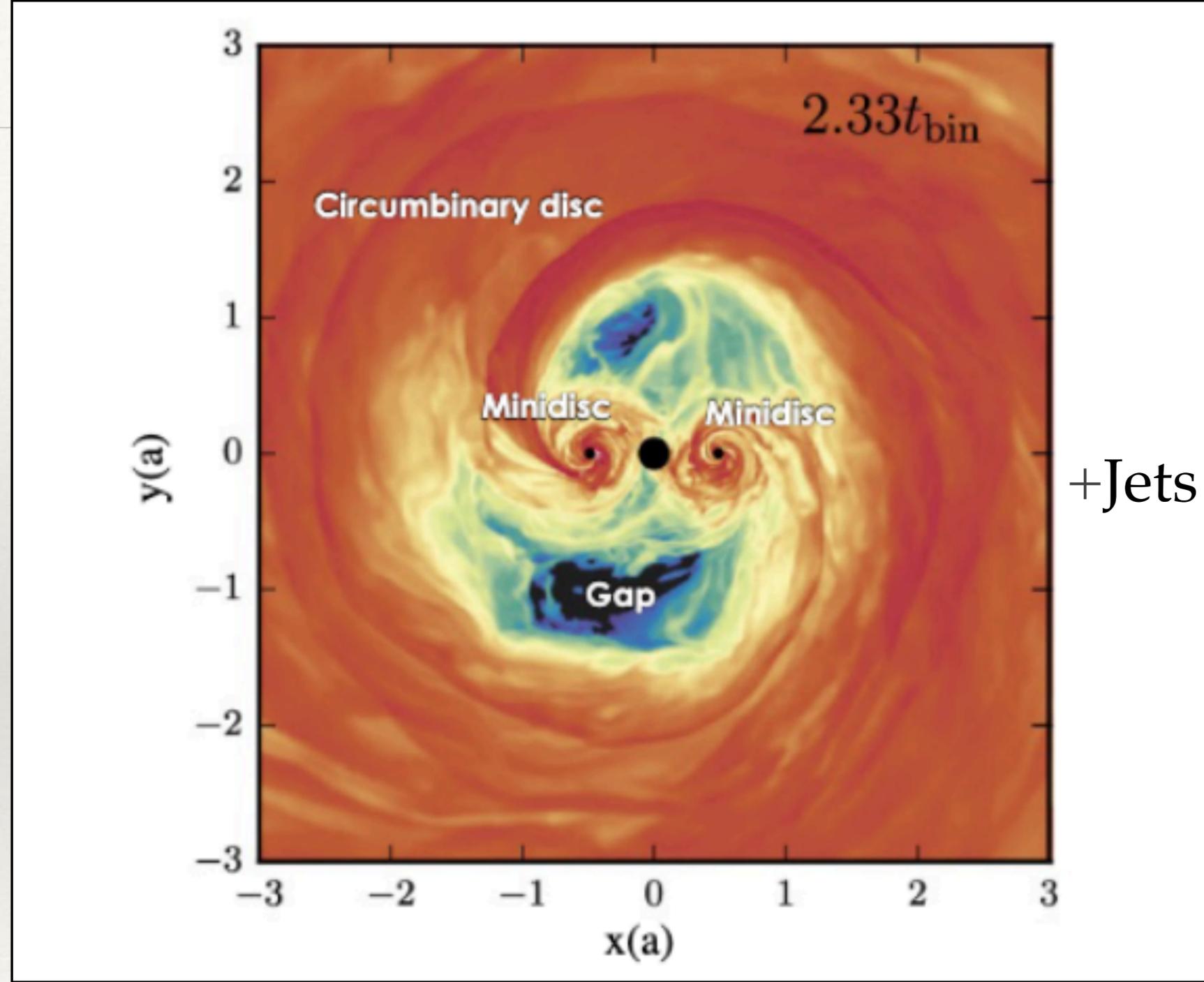
Pre-merger localisation only for nearby light binaries

- Rubin Observatory FoV can be covered by Athena in 3 days with a scanning pattern of 23 observations of 9KS each
- Chirp mass and mass ratio can be determined with 1% precision one week before coalescence
- Luminosity distance can be measured with 10% precision one week before merger



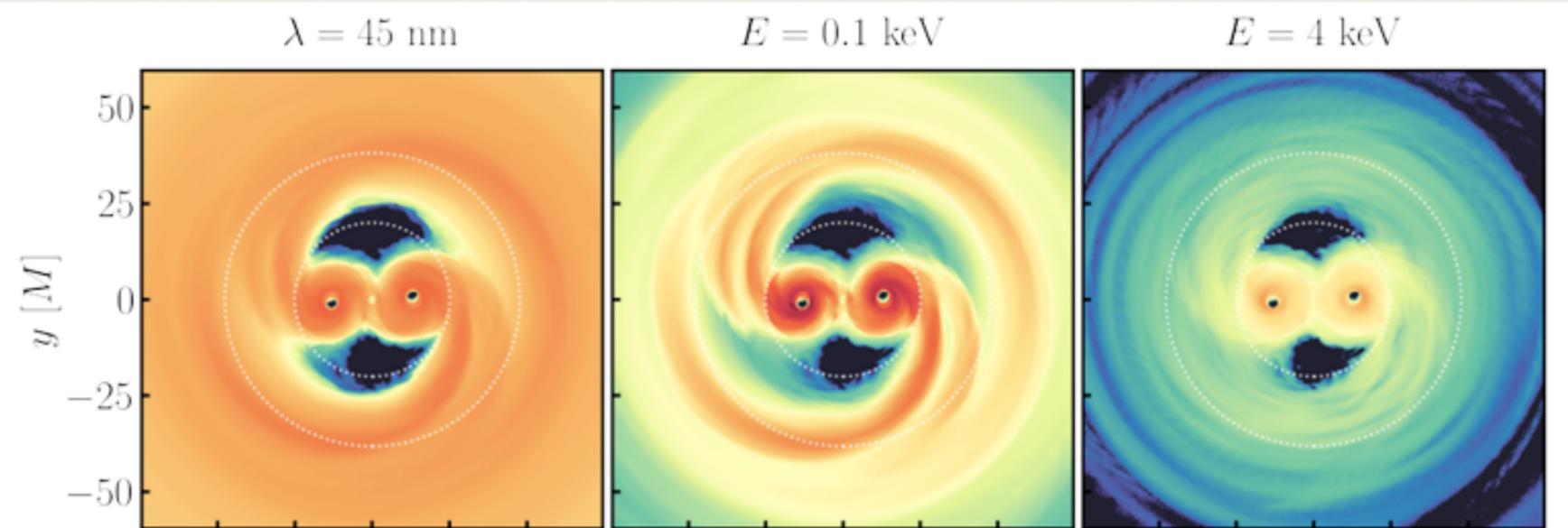
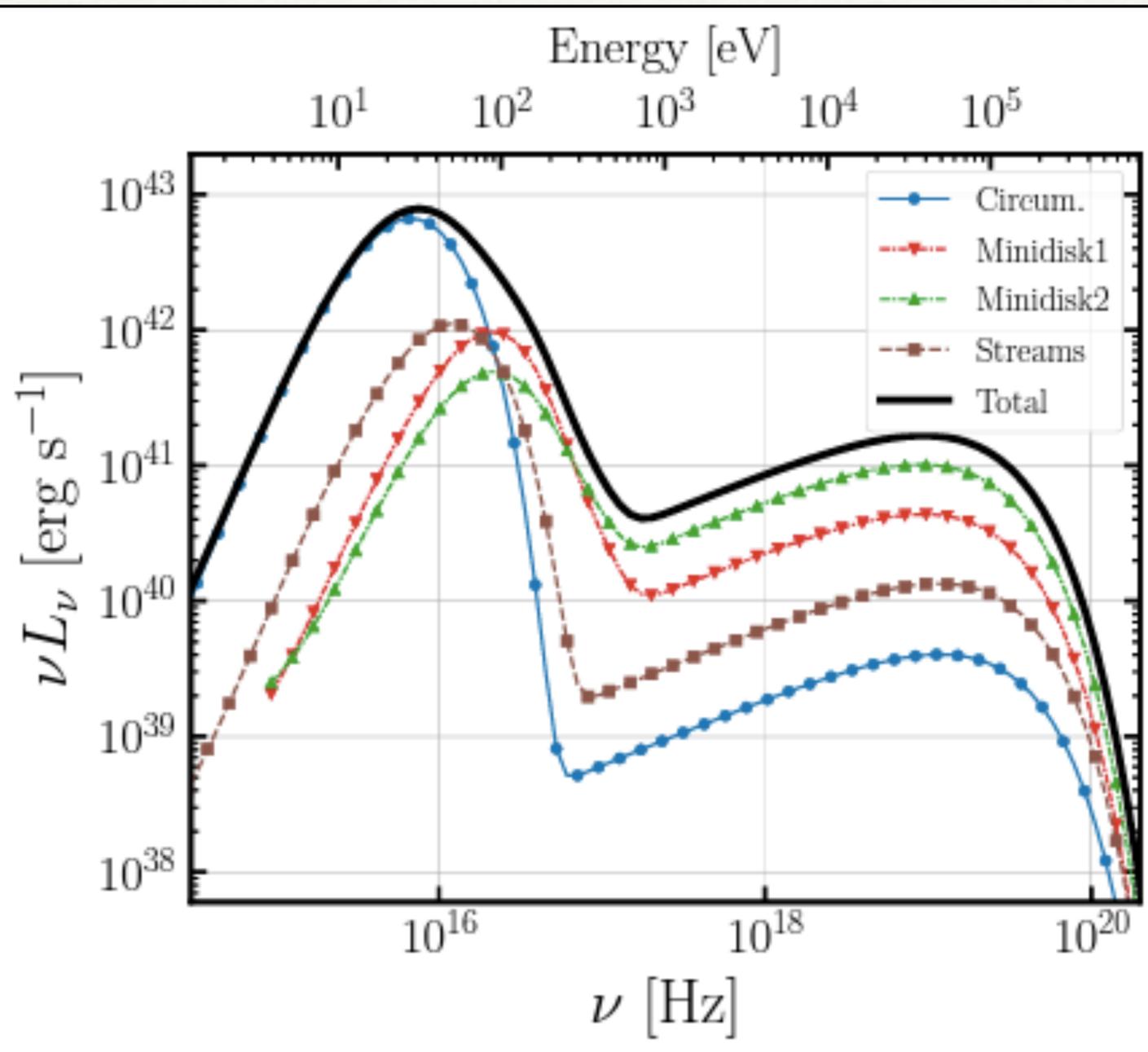
Expected counterparts to LISA events

Pre-merger phase

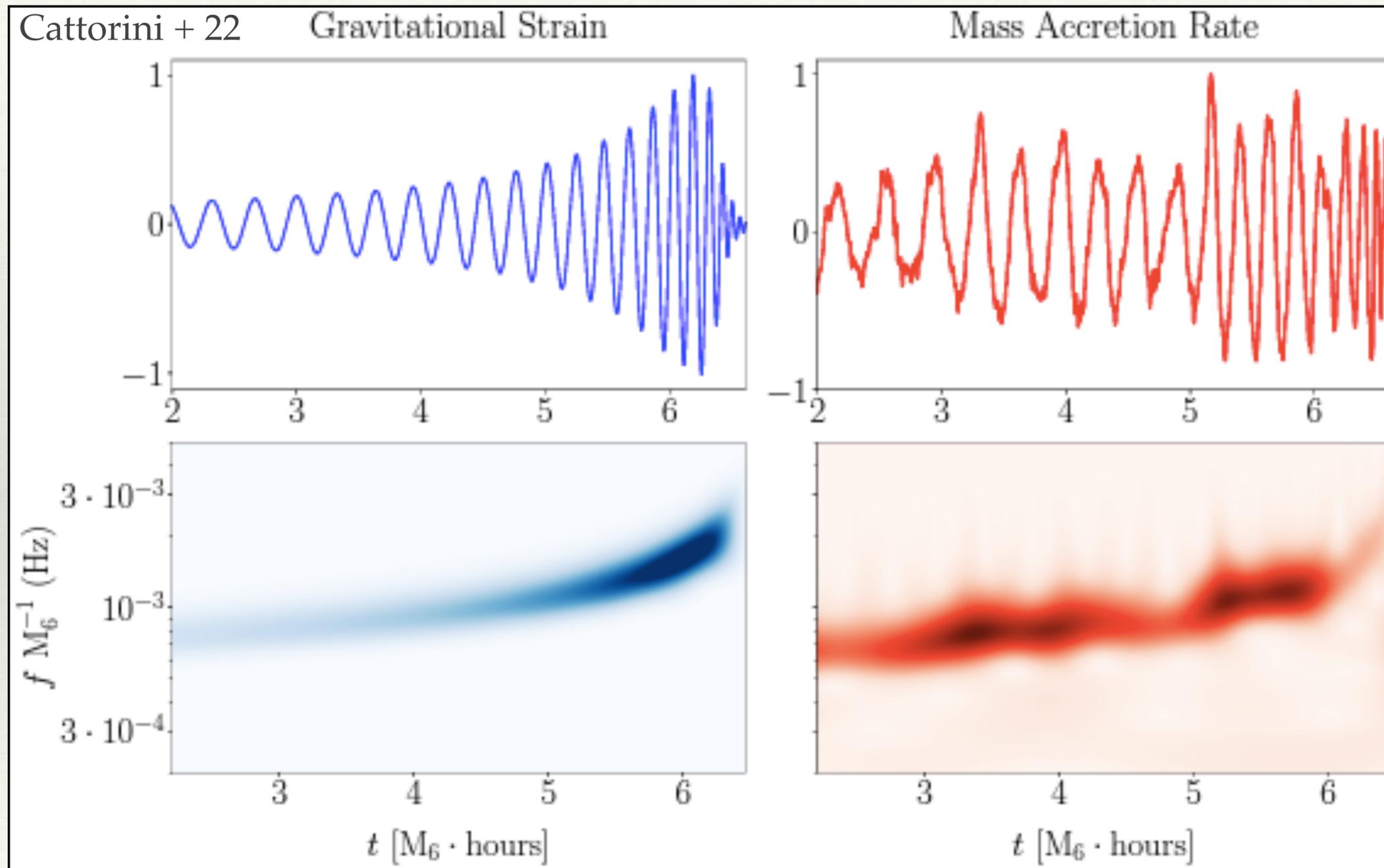


+Jets (Palenzuel+10; Moesta+2012)

Accretion discs' multiwavelength emission



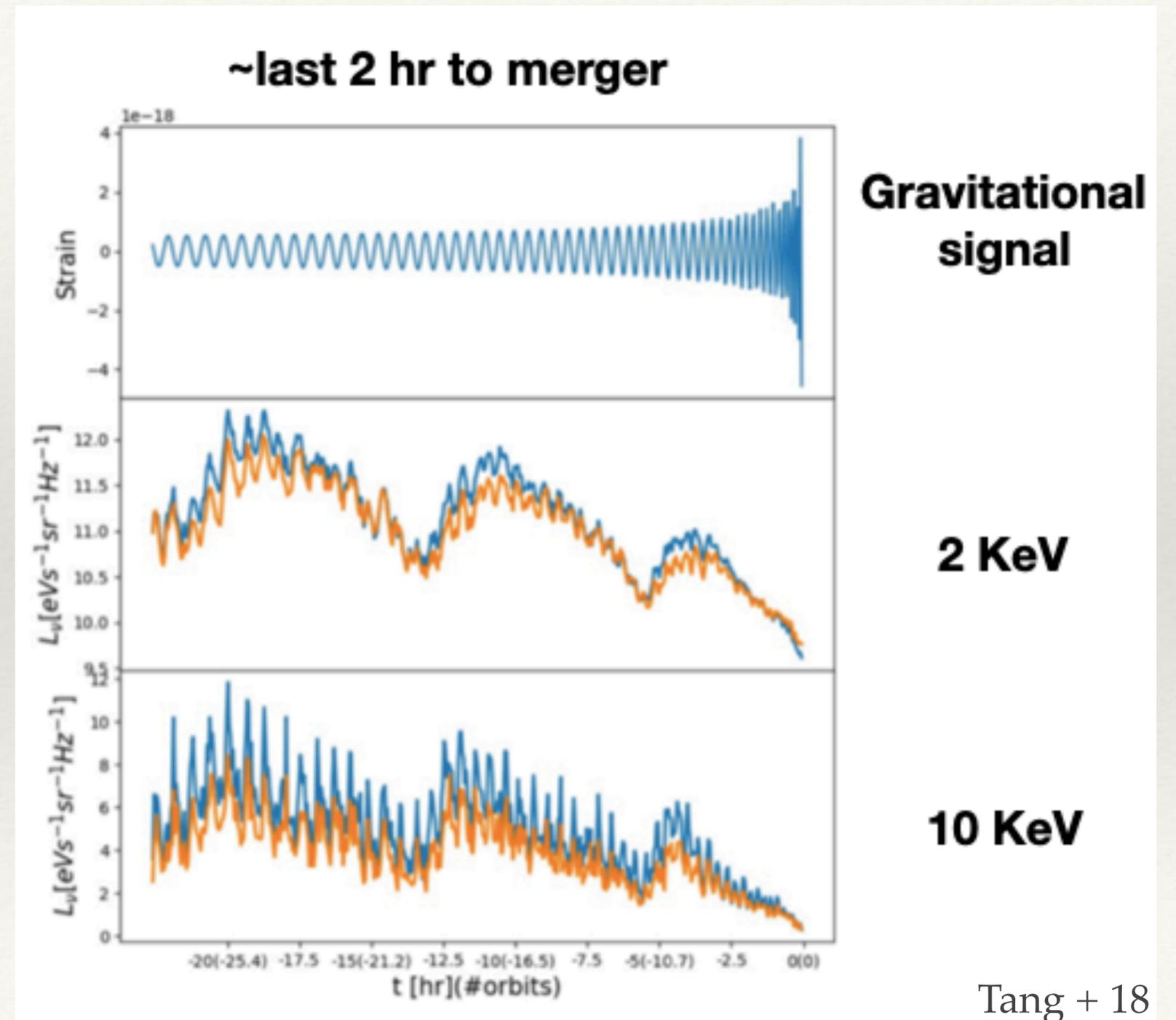
Multimessenger variability



see also: Roedig+14; Farris+ 2014; Tang + 18; Bowen + 17,18, Yike+18; D'Ascoli+18; Kelley+19

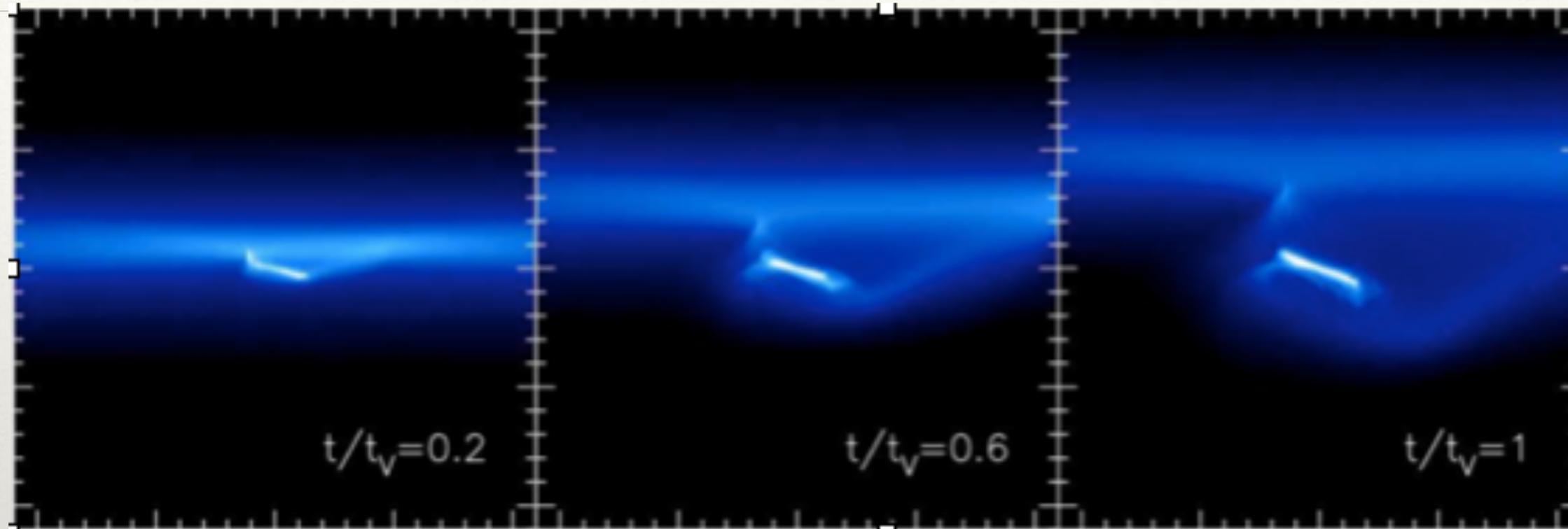
Multimessenger variability

X-ray emission may be modulated in time with characteristic frequencies linked to orbital motion and / or surrounding fluid patterns



Accretion disc related emission:
post-merger phase

GW recoil driven shocks



Rossi + 2010

- SMBH spins parallel \implies recoil in the disc plane with the highest luminosity: what is the spectral shape?
- Recoils with velocity > 1000 km/s create the so called “wandering black holes”

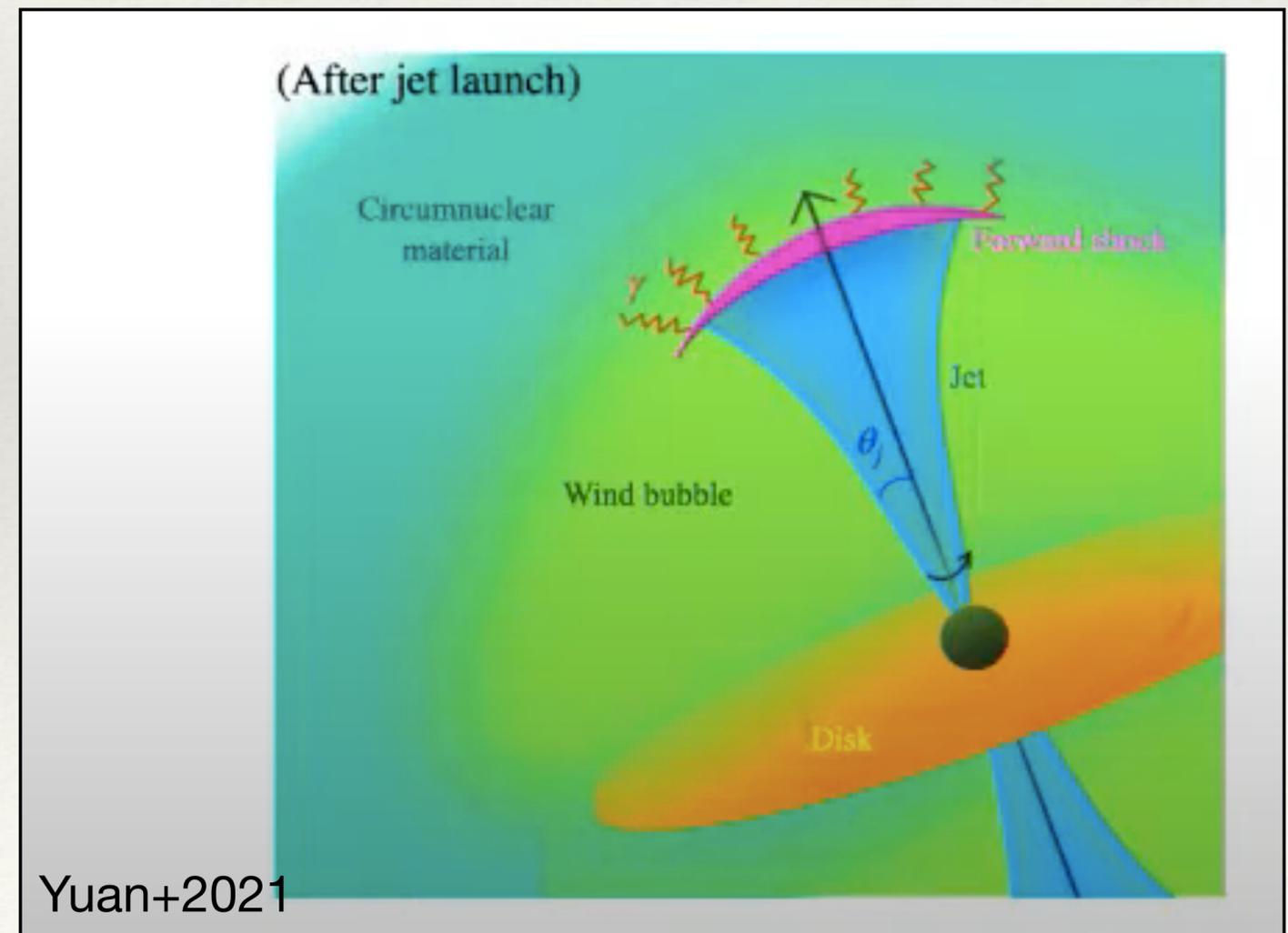
See also: Lippai+ 08; Shields & Bonning 08; Schnittman & Krolik 08; Megevand+ 09;

AGN-type accretion resumed after merger

Additional post merger emission from:

- Turned-on AGN as accretion resumes (Milosavljević and Phinney 05)
- Re-formation of X-ray corona and jet: non-thermal X-rays and gamma-rays

Yuan+21, Gold + 2014, and Khan +2018



post-merger: not your fast transient!

- Timescales for post-merger accretion emissions are likely to be **~months to years**.
- Timescale for jet to be visible: days to months

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- ❖ **Physics:** test of GR comparing speed of light and gravity

- ❖ **Cosmology:** testing cosmological parameter with standard sirens out to $z \sim 5$

What is needed for realise the potential of the multi-messenger detections?

Focusing on Type 1 EM Counterparts

- ❖ **Theory:** more robust predictions with radiative transfer to make predictions of EM light-curves and spectra of coalescing MBHBs under a variety of conditions

Challenges: Dynamical range (resolution!); physics (3D, GR, MHD, radiative transfer, feedback); wide parameter surveys to simulate wide range of events.

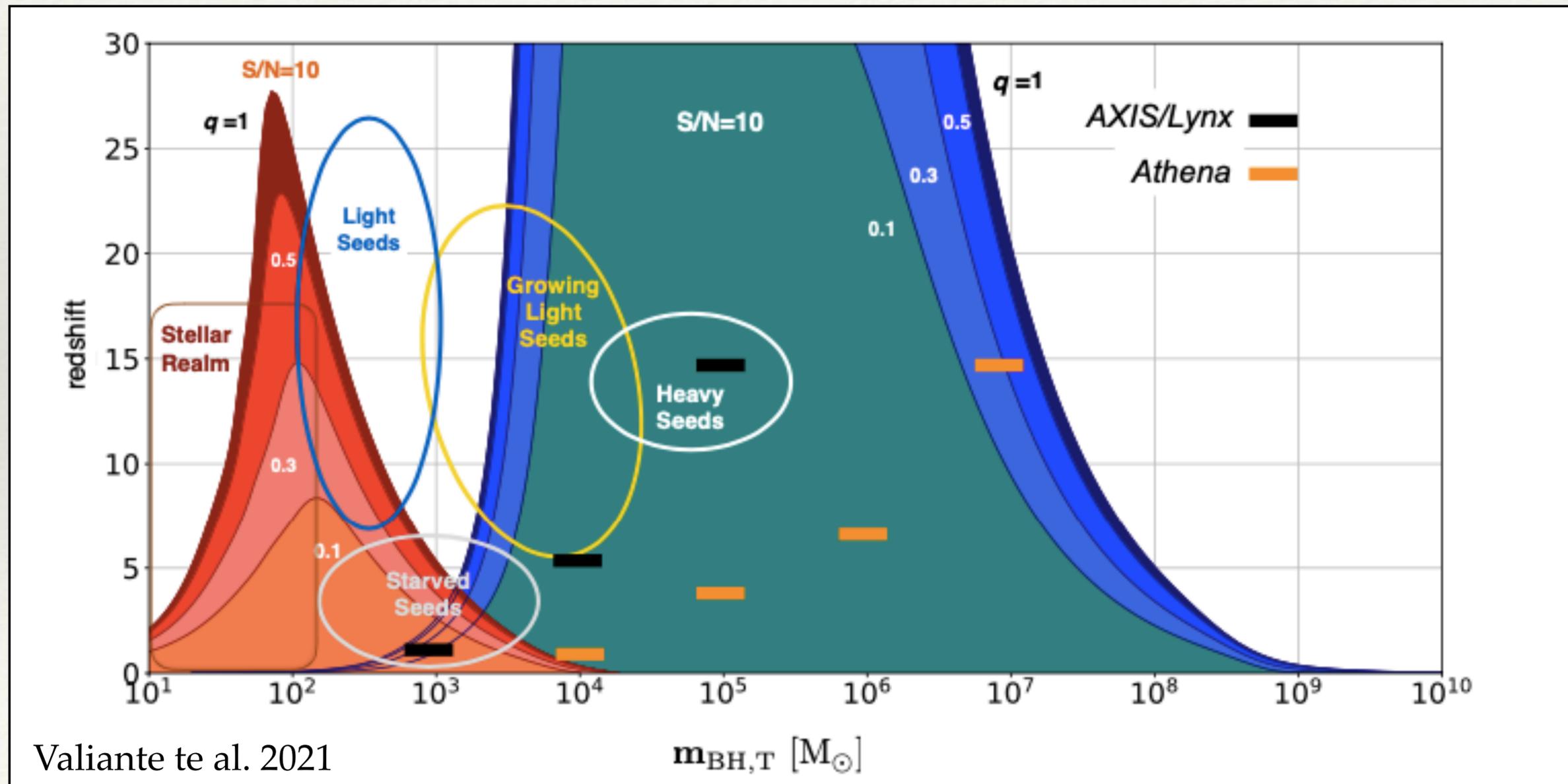
Finally, simulate mock observations !

What is needed for realise the potential of the multi-messenger detections?

- ❖ **Accretion:** Better characterisation of *low mass* AGN (level of obscuration, bolometric correction, intrinsic variability, spectra), between $10^5 - 10^7 M_{\odot}$. A multi wavelength descriptions.

What is needed for realise the potential of the multi-messenger detections?

- ❖ Accretion, LISA triggered detections: X-rays.



What is needed for realise the potential of the multi-messenger detections?

- ❖ **Jets:** Radio facilities to detect Jet emission (SKA, ngVLA).
- ❖ **Optical survey instruments** (such as Rubin Observatory, Roman Te) for localisation and accretion / jet characterisation
- ❖ **Directly imaging** MBHB orbits radio, via advances in Very Long Base Interferometer at mm-wavelengths. EHT has the ability and angular resolution to astrometrically track the orbits of MBHB with 0.01 pc separation at Gpc distances.
- ❖ **Host galaxies:** Increasingly complete catalogues of *dwarf* galaxies
- ❖ **Multi-band observations: GW observatories in space/on earth** together with LISA to improve localisation and / or increase Massive ($> 10^2 M_{\odot}$) Black Hole mass range covered